

REMARKS

Claims 2, 4-7, and 9-12 are now pending in the present application. By this Response, claims 2, 4, 6, and 9 are amended, and claim 1 is canceled. Reconsideration of the claims in light of the amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

I. Allowed Claims 6 and 7

The Examiner has stated that claims 6 and 7 are in condition for allowance. Amendments are made to claim 6 to correct grammatical errors.

II. Objection to Claims 2, 4, and 5

The Examiner has stated that claims 2, 4, and 5 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In response, claims 2 and 4 have been rewritten in independent form to overcome this objection.

Dependent claim 5 depends from allowable independent claim 4.

Therefore, claims 2, 4, and 5 are now in condition for allowance.

III. 35 U.S.C. § 102, Anticipation, Claims 1 and 9-12

Claims 1 and 9-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by *DiFranza et al* (U.S. Patent 6,543,582). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 is canceled.

Independent claim 9, which contains similar subject matter as independent claim 1, has been rewritten to incorporate the features of allowable claim 2.

Dependent claims 10-12 depend from allowable independent claim 9.

Applicant has amended independent claim 9 and canceled independent claim 1 from further consideration in this application. Applicant is not conceding in this application that those claims are not patentable over the art cited by the Examiner, as the present claim amendments and cancellations are only for facilitating expeditious prosecution of the allowable subject matter noted by the Examiner. Applicant respectfully reserves the right to pursue these and other claims in one or more continuations and/or divisional patent applications.

Therefore, because the claims incorporate subject matter that has been indicated to be allowable, the rejection of these claims is overcome.

IV. Conclusion

The subject application is now patentable over *DiFranza* and is in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number if in the opinion of the Examiner such a telephone conference would expedite or aid the prosecution and examination of this application.

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Respectfully submitted,

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